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CHAPTER 8

PATROL DOG CERTIFICATION, TRAINING, AND USE

8-1. Certification/Proficiency Standards. Military Working Dogs (MWDs) must meet/maintain certain certification standards before actual use. Kennel masters/supervisors determine the team's readiness for patrol duties. A command demonstration of patrol dog capabilities is recommended to provide a better understanding of their usefulness and effectiveness during daily law enforcement and physical security operations. The only formal certification requirement is the validation assessment conducted by the Law Enforcement/Physical Security (LEPS) Assistance Team. Certification standards/proficiency levels are outlined in appendix I.

8-2. Patrol Dog Task Ratings. Specific tasks are given different degrees of importance showing the difference between tasks that must be performed at a high level of proficiency and those that are less critical. Criteria for each task is located in appendix I.

a. Critical. Overall operational effectiveness is seriously degraded by failure to perform a critical task. Unless ill/physically disabled, dogs that fail to perform these tasks for 3 consecutive days are considered unreliable and should be entered into extensive corrective training. If the dog fails to respond to corrective training, possible decertification should be started. The following tasks are considered critical:

- (1) false run.
- (2) stand-off.
- (3) attack.
- (4) search and call-by.
- (5) building search.
- (6) patrolling and intruder detection.

(7) small arms fire.

(8) obedience command of "STAY."

b. Semi-critical. Overall operational effectiveness is not substantially degraded by failure to perform a semi-critical task, but corrective training must be applied to eliminate the deficiency. The following tasks are considered semi-critical:

(1) escort.

(2) vehicle patrol.

(3) obedience commands of "SIT", "DOWN", and "HEEL."

c. Non-critical. Overall operational effectiveness is not degraded by failure to perform a non-critical task, but corrective training must be applied to eliminate the deficiency. The following tasks are considered non-critical:

(1) obedience course.

(2) tracking.

8-3. MWD Training Folder. All training documentation must be maintained on patrol MWDs. The past 12 months of records will be kept in the MWD training folder and the remainder in the MWDs archive folder. The training folder will be set up in the following manner:

(a) Section 1. DD 1834, MWD Service Record. (figure B-1).

(b) Section 2. Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) form 375. (Initial training and certification information provided by Lackland AFB).

(c) Section 3. OPNAV 5585/4, MWD Status Report. (Completed by the LEPS Assistance Team).

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(e) Section 4. OPNAV 5585/1. MWD Training/Utilization Record (figure B-2).

8-4. Proficiency Trials. A proficiency trial is an evaluation of the dog's ability to perform tasks at a required proficiency level. A trial for each task should be conducted at least monthly by the kennel master/supervisor to ensure assigned patrol dog teams are safe and effective for use in patrol sections. Documentation requirements are described in appendix B.

8-5. Training Definitions/Techniques. All dogs are different and the handler must understand and apply the training techniques that produce the optimum behavior. Criteria should be defined and goals set prior to beginning each training session.

a. Successive Approximation. This is a method used to train a MWD to perform a new task. The dog is taught a more complex task through a series of simpler tasks using intermediate goals. Never advance the dog until proficient at each step. The handler/trainer should identify the final desired behavior, break that behavior down into a series of simpler behaviors, and teach the behaviors one at a time. The final goal will be achieved as the dog learns the simpler tasks.

b. Reward Training. Reward training is one of four methods used to train dogs to perform tasks on command. When a dog makes a correct or near correct response, it gets a reward. When the dog does not respond, or makes an incorrect response, it does not get a reward. Verbal/physical rewards must have value to the dog for reward training to be effective. Socialization of dog and handler in initial training is designed to gain reward value for verbal/physical praise.

c. Reward Schedules

(1) Continuous Reward Schedule. A reward (verbal/physical) is given immediately when the dog makes a correct response. Dogs initially making near correct responses are rewarded as they make subsequent responses nearer and nearer to the correct response. Shaping the dog to make the correct

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response requires a slight delay in giving your dog a reward; however, an excessive delay may lead to frustration.

(2) Extinction Schedule. No reward is ever given when the dog makes no response or an incorrect response. In initial training, using this schedule with the continuous reward schedule, the dog learns the correct response from the incorrect response. If the reward is of sufficient value to the dog, the dog will select the right response to get the reward.

NOTE: The dog must complete each task with 100 percent accuracy before proceeding to the fixed ratio and variable ratio reward schedules.

(3) Fixed Ratio Reward Schedule. A reward is given to the dog after it makes two or more correct responses. The two or more responses do not necessarily have to be the same responses. To start a dog on this schedule, every second correct response is rewarded. When the dog consistently makes two responses to get a reward, three responses will then be required. By increasing the number of responses one at a time and allowing the dog to perform at each level with 100 percent proficiency, a high fixed ratio reward schedule can be reached. If the proficiency is inadequate at any time, decrease the number of responses required by the dog to get a reward and then proceed as before, adding one response at a time.

(a) Example 1.

Continuous Reward Schedule: One Correct
Response = Reward

Extinction Schedule: Incorrect Response = No
Reward

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(b) Example 2. Fixed Ratio Reward Schedule:

2 correct responses = 1 reward

3 correct responses = 1 reward

4 correct responses = 1 reward

NOTE: The dog must perform each step at 100 percent accuracy before going on to the next step.

(4) Variable Ratio Schedule. Once the dog has learned to perform on a high fixed ratio reward schedule, the variable ratio reward schedule is used. The maximum number of responses required by this schedule must have been learned by the dog on a fixed-ratio schedule. Select a range of responses required (i.e., five to 10 responses) and reward the dog randomly within this range. For example, the dog has learned to respond correctly 15 times on a fixed-ratio reward schedule. Reward the dog somewhere between five and 10 correct responses on a random basis. The dog learns it must respond correctly more than 10 times to get a reward. This reward schedule, once attained, gives you greater control of your dog's behavior than the continuous or fixed ratio reward schedules.

(5) Fixed-Interval Reward Schedule. A reward is given when the dog is required to respond for a fixed period of time. In initial training, a short period of time must be selected. If the dog does not respond correctly, a shorter period of time must be selected until the dog responds correctly to get a reward. As in the fixed ratio reward schedule, short periods of time (5 seconds), are added to the interval and the dog is required to attain 100 percent accuracy at each interval. If the dog fails to respond correctly for the required length of time, adjust the time requirement of a response to a lower time requirement.

NOTE: In initial training, you must maintain a fixed interval reward schedule with a continuous, fixed, or variable ratio reward schedule. Dogs will always be on two schedules at the same time. Example: When the dog correctly responds to the command "SIT," it is rewarded immediately; however, as the reward

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is successfully delayed, the dog learns that the command "SIT" has a time requirement. The reward given satisfied the continuous reward and the fixed interval requirement.

(6) Variable Interval Reward Schedule. Once the dog has learned to perform any task for a specified period of time on a fixed interval reward schedule ("STAY" in the "SIT" or "DOWN" position for 3 minutes) the variable interval reward schedule is used. Select a time range (1 to 2 minutes) and reward the dog on a random basis within this period.

Example: The dog has learned to respond correctly for 3 minutes on a fixed interval reward schedule. Reward the dog somewhere between the 1 and 2 minute time requirement on a random basis. The dog will learn that it must respond for at least 1 minute and will not be required to respond longer than 2 minutes to obtain a desired reward. This reward schedule, once attained, gives the handler greater control of the dog's behavior than the fixed interval reward schedule.

NOTE: The fixed variable ratio reward schedule and the variable interval reward schedule provide greater stimulus control than other reward schedules. Every effort should be made to train and keep dogs on these two schedules.

d. Avoidance Training. The dog learns not to make an incorrect response to avoid a verbal/physical correction. A continuous reward schedule is followed in avoidance training. Every time the dog makes an undesired response, it receives one correction.

(1) The method of pairing verbal/physical praise or verbal/physical correction within .5 seconds of each other is called "Classical Conditioning." Physical correction/praise are unconditioned stimuli (UCS). They cause the dog to feel either good or bad which are known as unconditioned responses. When the UCS is paired with verbal praise, "GOOD BOY," or verbal correction, "NO," a sufficient number of times (approximately 40 to 50) they can elicit a good or bad feeling in the MWD in the absence of the UCS. The verbal praise, "GOOD BOY," and

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correction, "NO," are conditioned stimuli and the responses to the stimuli are conditioned responses.

(2) Physical/verbal correction are paired within 0.5 seconds in avoidance training to teach the MWD not to make a specific response.

(3) Physical/verbal praise are used simultaneously as the reward to teach the MWD to make a specific response.

(4) Pairing a command within 1 second of the correction, "NO," will allow commands to eventually elicit a conditioned response (a feeling similar to that caused by a physical correction.) For this reason, commands and verbal corrections should be separated by one or more seconds.

e. Extinction Training. The handler ignores the dog's incorrect response and rewards the correct response. The undesired behavior will be extinguished as the dog learns that it will not be rewarded for incorrect responses.

f. Escape Training. This technique is conditioning the dog by the use of pressure. As with other training techniques, escape training has positive/negative effects on training. Generally, MWDs will yield to lighter forms of pressure and resist heavier pressures. The MWD learns by escaping pressure and this should be used to cue the dog into making the correct response. This method should be used in place of avoidance training in almost every instance.

g. Stimulus Control. The ability to control the dog's behavior is a result of gaining stimulus control. The dog learns that it is rewarded for performing a certain task correctly.

(1) Strength of Reward. Initial socialization training of the dog and handler is designed to increase the value of verbal/physical praise in order to make reward training more effective. The ball, food (detection tasks), or other play

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objects provide greater reward strength which helps in gaining stimulus control.

(2) Failure to use avoidance training and reward schedules correctly reduces the value of verbal/physical praise.

8-6. The Purpose of Training. MWD teams require continual proficiency training to maintain required skills since their normal day-to-day duties do not provide the necessary practice in all the skills they have been trained to perform. Without frequent reward reinforcement for performing a task correctly, the dog rapidly loses its proficiency becoming an ineffective and unsafe asset.

8-7. Where and When to Train. Training should be conducted in areas that closely simulate actual tasks required to perform and should be conducted during the handler's normal shift as often as needed to prevent loss of proficiency. Realistic scenarios should be designed to include training in several tasks, i.e., building search involving detecting, apprehending, and escorting the suspect from the scene. To ensure all security personnel understand the capability/uniqueness of patrol dogs, training should include non-MWD personnel used for backup, etc. Important factors are the quality of training and the length of time lapsed between task performances.

8-8. MWD Proficiency Training Plan. The kennel master/handler should identify existing deficiencies/corrective actions and develop a MWD proficiency training plan. Additionally, the training plan should include the necessary criteria to increase patrol proficiency capabilities to higher levels as outlined in appendix I. The training sessions should follow the guidelines described in the training plan to achieve desired goals.

8-9. Proficiency Training. Proficiency training is conducted by the kennel supervisor/handler to correct deficiencies, and to increase the level of patrol capabilities. Initial training at Lackland AFB taught the dog the basic law enforcement skills; however, dogs possessing only these basic skills are not fully prepared for real world situations. They will be required to perform advanced skills, working long periods of time under

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adverse conditions. Once assigned to a command, it is the kennel supervisor/handler's responsibility to conduct advanced training to ensure the MWD is fully proficient and effective to meet the required mission. Training should be conducted for each task at least once per week. Use the MWD Student Guide provided for each handler at Lackland AFB for training procedures on obedience, confidence course, and controlled aggression.

a. The first step in MWD training is to define a goal and establish the criteria to achieve that goal. Using the successive approximation method, the handler establishes the criteria necessary for the MWD to meet before it is considered to have learned the new task. For example, in order for the MWD to be considered proficient at a new task, it must successively perform a running stand-off, five times per day for 10 consecutive days.

b. Training exercises should be conducted with the emphasis placed on MWD/handler weaknesses. Concentrate on the critical tasks as outlined in appendix I, and do not let exercises become routine and monotonous.

c. To reduce training time and frequency as much as possible, training exercises should be developed that combine performance of as many tasks as possible.

d. Use of the shock collar, relaxation collar, or "Schutzhund" pinch collar are forbidden. The above items are not authorized in the kennel/training area for any purpose. Kicking, hitting or striking a MWD with any object with intent to harm is also prohibited.

e. Hidden wraps should be used in aggression training as MWDs will be less aggressive without the visual stimulation of the exterior wrap, and it provides for more realistic training.

f. Ensure sufficient training to maintain required proficiency standards is conducted for excess MWDs.

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8-10. Gunfire Training. The purpose of gunfire training is to condition the dog to be tolerant/controllable during gunfire by the handler or and back-up personnel.

(a) The minimum amount of blank ammunition made available for MWD training shall be 50 rounds of .38 caliber/9mm per MWD per quarter.

(b) Personnel involved in gunfire training must remember to never back a dog down (causes fear) with gunfire. Use successive approximation, decreasing the distance, until the required behavior is achieved. Use only blank ammunition and never fire a weapon directly at a dog/person.

(c) As the dog's confidence increases, larger caliber weapons should be introduced.

8-11. Use of MWD Patrol Teams. MWD patrol teams (patrol, patrol/drug, and patrol/explosive) used in normal law enforcement operations are a tremendous psychological deterrent to potential violators and should be used in all areas of the base. Further psychological benefit is derived by conducting periodic public demonstrations. The MWD teams are an integral part of an active Crime Prevention Program, and support community oriented policing activities.

a. MWD demonstrations provide good public relations, psychological value, and encourage handlers to maintain MWDs at the highest level of proficiency. Publicizing the MWD program through local news media and conducting special demonstrations for civilian/military clubs and organizations enhances community relations and can deter potential violators from entering a naval installation. Demonstrations using explosives are not authorized.

b. MWD patrol teams should be used judiciously in confrontation situations, since their presence could escalate a situation. They should not be deployed on the front lines in riot control situations but be standing by for use, if necessary. MWD handlers who are confronted in a housing area, club, etc., should use discretion in entering a building with a MWD. If

possible, the handler should leave the dog in the patrol unit or wait for additional patrolmen to arrive.

c. Perimeter Security Patrols. MWD patrol teams may be used to supplement existing security measures. When used randomly during higher threat conditions, patrol teams are an excellent tool to increase detection and to enhance deterrence.

8-12. MWD Operational Safety Procedures. MWD handlers must constantly be aware of and alert to the things going on around them. They must recognize when the MWD is uneasy or becoming agitated and what events/conditions cause the MWD to react accordingly. Below are precautions handlers must practice at all times:

a. Keep the dog on a short leash when working in or around large numbers of people.

b. Ensure MWD has the necessary temperament and socialization prior to allowing physical contact with non-MWD personnel. Some MWDs are excellent for school talks, etc.; however, they are not "pets"; exercise extreme caution at all times.

c. Handlers should keep MWDs on a leash except when released to attack. Before releasing a MWD to search a building, a handler must give a verbal warning to inform anyone that may be in the building that the MWD is about to be released.

d. Handlers will never give up control of a MWD to anyone other than trained MWD handlers/veterinary personnel.

e. When handlers challenge an unknown person, approach a suspect, check a person's identification, or are involved in any situation that requires them to divert attention from the MWD, they must always inform the person/persons that the MWD will attack on command.

f. Never assume that a person knows the potential danger of the MWD.

8-13. Use of Force. MWDs trained to attack, i.e., Patrol, P/DD, and P/E detector dogs, must be considered a weapon, and many of the restrictions that apply to the use of firearms also apply to the release of the MWD against a suspect. Releasing the MWD or allowing it to bite while on-leash, is not considered using deadly force, but the handler must not release a MWD or allow it to bite until all other, less forceful means have failed. Methods of force listed from the least severe to the most severe are as follows:

- a. Physical apprehension and restraint, e.g., come-along holds, take-downs, etc.
- b. Restraints such as handcuffs.
- c. Chemical Agents.
- d. Police Batons.
- e. **MWDs.**
- f. Firearms.

8-14. Policy on Releasing MWDs. While MWD bites are seldom fatal, they are usually very serious. Drug/explosive detector dogs will never be released against a suspect. Release policy shall be included in local standard operating procedures.

- a. Before releasing a MWD, the handler must:
 - (1) Be sure that the MWD will perform a stand-off (cease an attack) upon command.
 - (2) Be sure that the MWD obeys the commands "OUT" and "HEEL."
 - (3) Be sure that the MWD has identified the same target as the handler.
 - (4) Give a verbal warning order to halt or the handler will release the MWD.

(5) Warn bystanders to cease all movement.

b. When releasing a MWD to attack, the handler must:

(1) Follow the MWD as closely as possible.

(2) Call the MWD off the attack immediately if it is attacking someone other than the suspect.

(3) Call the MWD off the attack as soon as the suspect stops/indicates surrender.

(4) Regain leash control of the MWD as soon as possible.

c. MWDs will not be released:

(1) If no suspect is in sight.

(2) In areas where children are present, except as a last resort short of using a firearm. If children involved in minor incidents fail to halt when challenged, the handler should follow them to their quarters instead of releasing the dog.

(3) Into a large crowd of people.

(4) In cases of minor offenses.

8-15. Walking Patrols. Walking patrol duties include checking buildings, parking lots, industrial and housing areas. The following should be considered when using MWD teams for this function:

a. A MWD team used during daylight hours in congested areas provides a psychological deterrent. Patrol MWDs are tolerant of people, and the presence of a large number of people does not significantly reduce the MWDs usefulness.

b. The MWDs detection ability is more effective during darkness/limited visibility when there are fewer distractions. A person may flee a crime scene at night without being detected by

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security patrolmen; however, a patrol MWD may detect a fleeing person and, if necessary, pursue, attack, and hold the individual.

c. A larger number of buildings and parking lots can be checked/searched with a MWD team than by a single person.

d. Periodic use of MWD patrol teams around on-base dependent schools, especially when school is starting and dismissing, may deter potential vandals, child molesters, exhibitionists, and illegal drug activities.

e. MWD patrol teams may be used to provide security for resources such as communications facilities, equipment, or command posts.

8-16. Mobile Patrols. Mobilizing MWD teams significantly increases their area of coverage and makes it possible for the team to perform more functions during a shift. The team is usually unaccompanied, but other security police personnel may go with them since the MWD can work in close proximity with people.

a. While patrolling, the handler may allow the dog to be off-leash in the rear of the vehicle. The MWD should remain in the sit position as much as possible to observe the surroundings and activities. To prevent eye injury from insects or other foreign matter, the MWD must not be allowed to place its head out of the window.

b. Mobile patrols are most effective when the team uses the ride-awhile-walk-awhile method. The patrol is able to cover a larger patrol area and the exercise keeps the MWD alert.

8-17. Building Checks/Searches. A MWD team is especially effective in checking and searching buildings such as commissaries, base exchanges, finance offices, banks, and warehouses. The team can physically check doors and windows with the dog on-leash. For the MWD to use its scenting ability, the handler should always approach buildings from the downwind side.

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8-18. Vehicle Parking Lots. The MWDs presence may deter potential acts of theft/vandalism and is effective in detecting unauthorized personnel.

a. Greater effectiveness is achieved by alternating between vehicle/foot patrol; for example, the handler patrols in a vehicle, periodically dismounting with the MWD and walking through the parking lots.

b. During darkness, when there is no activity, the team should approach from the downwind side. If the MWD responds, the handler should challenge the individual for identification and possible apprehension.

c. Should a suspect try to escape/evade apprehension, and the handler is reasonably certain the suspect has committed or attempted to commit a crime, the handler may release the MWD (after a verbal warning is given) to pursue, attack, and hold. If it is unsafe to release the MWD, the handler may follow the individual by using the MWD to scout/track.

8-19. Bachelor Enlisted Quarters/Bachelor Officer Quarters (BEQ/BOQ). Patrol MWDs in BEQ/BOQ areas tend to decrease unlawful acts. Greater effectiveness is obtained when the MWD team alternates between mobile/foot patrol. MWD patrols should be used both day and night creating an effective psychological deterrent. Contact with area residents helps to reinforce the MWDs tolerance of people. The handler is responsible for determining how much socialization the MWD needs.

8-20. Alarm Responses. In responding to the activation of an alarm system, the MWD team should be one of the first on the scene. The MWD may be used to search and clear the building/area and assist in apprehensions. If the MWD is used to track a suspect, other persons should not contaminate the area with scents and tracks that can confuse the dog.

8-21. Fund Escorts. During fund escorts, a patrol MWD provides both a psychological deterrent against potential robbery and additional protection against an actual attempt. Unlike people, a patrol MWD does not fear an armed person and, if fired upon,

will pursue and attack. This is an important point to emphasize during demonstrations and news releases.

a. While escorting fund custodians to and from the vehicle, the MWD team should be slightly to the rear to observe hostile acts. If a robbery is attempted, a verbal warning will be given and the suspect will be approached with the MWD on-leash.

b. Fund custodians who are reluctant to ride in the same vehicle with a patrol MWD should ride in another vehicle, with the MWD team following.

8-22. Moving Traffic Violations/Investigations

a. When a traffic stop is made, the MWD may accompany the handler on-leash without interfering with the issuance of traffic citations. The presence of the MWD will cause most offenders to cooperate.

b. MWD teams should not be used for routine traffic directing duties or accident investigation duties. In warm weather, MWDs left in vehicles can become overheated in a short time due to lack of shade/poor ventilation. The handler must ensure that there is ample ventilation.

NOTE: When a handler must leave a MWD unattended in a vehicle, all windows in the vehicle must be rolled up far enough to prevent the MWD from escaping/injuring itself.

8-23. Identification/Apprehension of Individuals. To check identification or make an apprehension, the handler must advise the individual that the MWD will attack upon command. After an apprehension, a search of the suspect is always completed with the MWD in guard position. If possible, a back-up patrol unit should be used to transport personnel in custody. If the handler must transport the suspect, the MWD should be positioned in the back seat and the suspect in the front passenger seat.

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8-24. Conditions Affecting Tracking. Kennel supervisors/handler's must understand some of the conditions that can affect the dog's performance prior to conducting training exercises.

a. The dog takes the human scent not only from the ground but also from the air near the ground. A strong wind can spread the scent so sparsely over an area that the dog may have difficulty detecting it. A track laid into the wind blows the scent straight to the dog. A wind blowing across a track may cause the dog to work from a few feet to several yards downwind of the track. To encourage the dog to pick up the scent directly from the ground, all initial tracks should be laid downwind from the starting point.

b. Many dogs track with their nose 6 inches or more above the ground, periodically lowering their noses to pick up a stronger scent. The training supervisor must design exercises to determine if the dog naturally tracks this way.

c. The ideal surface for tracking is an open field with short, damp vegetation. A hard dry surface does not hold a scent well. Heavy rain will wash away the scent while a damp surface will allow the scent to remain.

d. The scent dissipates faster when the temperature is high; therefore, the early morning/late afternoon hours are most favorable tracking periods. Humidity, which improves the scent, is usually not as high during peak temperature periods.

e. Conflicting smells, such as smoke/fumes from chemicals/fertilizers, affect the dog's ability to detect and follow a track. These odors may mask the scent the dog is trying to follow.

f. The age of the track is another factor that must be taken into consideration. A track laid on a hot dry surface disappears soon after being laid.

8-25. Short Track. The short track is at least 100 yards and runs from one point straight to another. The track should be

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preplanned and all persons involved should know the start and end points. This is primarily so that the handler can stay on the track even though the dog loses it. If the dog strays from the track, the pace of the handler/dog are slowed until the dog recovers and returns to the track.

a. To leave a good scent pad, the decoy scuffs his/her feet in one spot, making a circle about 25 inches in diameter. The decoy then scuffs his/her feet on the ground in a straight line for about 100 yards downwind from the starting point and drops to the ground. On this track, the decoy should stay at the point where the track ends.

b. When the decoy has completed laying the track, the handler should lead the dog to about 6 feet short of the scent pad and attach the 360-inch leash to the dog's harness.

c. After the dog sniffs the scent pad, give the command "TRACK," pronouncing it in a slow and drawn-out manner, with the hand making a sweeping downward and outward motion.

d. Allow the dog to move out half the length of the leash. Stay on the track even though the dog may wander off. If the dog persistently strays off the track, stop and call the dog back and let it sniff the track. The command is repeated and the dog is allowed to move out only about 6 feet on the leash.

e. If the dog fails to follow the track, a mild form of agitation should be given at the scent pad by the decoy and again when the dog locates the decoy. On the initial track, when using agitation, the dog should be in a position to watch the decoy until he/she drops to the ground. The dog is then allowed to track at a slow pace.

f. Regardless of the technique used in teaching the dog to track, the dog should be successful in finding the decoy and must receive praise from the handler. Mild corrections should be given in a displeased tone of voice rather than in a harsh tone of voice. Jerking on the harness results in the dog raising its head making it difficult for it to perform correctly.

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8-26. Intermediate Track. This track is at least 1/2-mile in length and includes turns and articles the dog must find. As in the short track, preplanning an intermediate track is necessary so that the handler can help the dog in making the turns and locating the articles.

a. The intermediate track should be limited to two turns until the dog gains proficiency. The turns should be made at no more than a 45-degree angle during an intermediate track and each turn should be identified by a marker.

b. Articles such as a small piece of wool, leather, rubber, or cloth can be used. The decoy puts a scent on the article by rubbing it between his/her hands.

c. The dog is not required to pick up the article, but should make some indication that it is there. The type of indication the dog makes can be a number of things, such as stopping momentarily, or turning the head toward the location of the article as it passes by. If the dog should miss the article, pick it up and keep it for use as a refresher scent if the dog loses the track later.

d. The intermediate track, unlike the short track, is laid perpendicular to the wind. This creates a new problem in that the dog may be forced to work from a few feet to several yards downwind of the track to pick up the airborne scent.

e. The decoy begins at the planned starting point by scuffing his/her feet to make a good scent pad. Then moves out on the designated route by walking along normally, occasionally scuffing the feet. When the decoy reaches the point where the article is placed, he/she puts both hands to the ground to increase the scent.

f. When the decoy goes into the turn and comes out of it, he/she strengthens the scent by making a small scent pad. The decoy then continues to lay track and remains at the end of it until the dog team arrives. The procedures used by the decoy to help the dog in following the track should be gradually eliminated as the dog's proficiency increases.

g. At the beginning of these exercises, the handler/dog should be in a position to observe the decoy's route. The primary purpose of watching the decoy is to excite the dog with the decoy's movement. The handler can help excite the dog by occasionally saying in a suspicious voice, "Where is he?" or "What's he doing?" After the decoy is out of sight, wait for the prescribed time before moving toward the scent pad. The time limit varies with each dog and each exercise.

h. Approach the scent pad and change over to the tracking harness before continuing to the scent pad. Allow the dog to smell the scent pad and give the verbal and physical command, "TRACK." As the dog starts out, let the 360-inch leash out as far as practical.

i. Observe the dog's performance for indications such as alerting on an article, or losing the track. The dog may indicate that it has lost the scent by raising its head high and circling the handler or moving rapidly back and forth trying to find the track (the latter will usually happen if it has missed a turn).

j. If any of the above indications occur, stop immediately and begin slowly taking in the leash, bringing the dog back. If the dog is actively searching for the scent, it should be allowed to continue. This searching process is called "casting."

k. If the dog stops and begins looking for the decoy, bring the dog back and repeat the verbal/physical command, "TRACK." As the dog starts off, keep a short leash until the dog has the track again. If the dog fails to find the scent, take the dog back along the track as far as necessary until the dog finds the track.

8-27. Advanced Track. This track is used for dogs that have shown a marked degree of proficiency in tracking. All dogs do not have the ability to track for long periods or follow old tracks.

g. At the beginning of these exercises, the handler/dog should be in a position to observe the decoy's route. The primary purpose of watching the decoy is to excite the dog with the decoy's movement. The handler can help excite the dog by occasionally saying in a suspicious voice, "Where is he?" or "What's he doing?" After the decoy is out of sight, wait for the prescribed time before moving toward the scent pad. The time limit varies with each dog and each exercise.

h. Approach the scent pad and change over to the tracking harness before continuing to the scent pad. Allow the dog to smell the scent pad and give the verbal and physical command, "TRACK." As the dog starts out, let the 360-inch leash out as far as practical.

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8-27. Advanced Track. This track is used for dogs that have shown a marked degree of proficiency in tracking. All dogs do not have the ability to track for long periods or follow old tracks.

a. In planning this track, a map should be prepared so the handler, if necessary, can help the dog. The tracks should be 1 or 2 hours old and at least 1-mile long. The decoy lays a track by making a scent pad and then walks at a normal pace, occasionally breaking into a run.

b. At every other turn, the decoy makes a scent pad, if the dog needs it to track. The decoy starts the track the same as in the intermediate track and runs and walks intermittently to reach the hiding place.

c. The articles, rather than being placed on the track, are dropped. At turns, it may be necessary to place markers for the handler to indicate a change in direction. If markers are not used, separate scent pads for the dog to follow are made to indicate the new direction.

d. The diversionary decoy crosses the initial track, but should cross using caution to prevent confusing the dog. A diversionary track is used so the handler can learn what the dog may do when confronted with a new problem. Initially, the handler must know exactly where the tracks cross to observe the dog's reaction when it comes to the diversionary scent.

e. It must be emphasized that incentives are extremely important in getting the dog to follow a scent. The handler must stay flexible in the approach to tracking, allowing for latitude to make any necessary adaptations that result in a successful performance.

f. Some MWDs are completely unsuited for tracking and show no willingness to track. Nothing can be gained by continually trying to make one of these dogs track. Therefore, once a kennel master/trainer is able to document a dog's unwillingness to track, further training in this task may be stopped. Contact LEPS Assistance Team for guidance.

g. Dogs that demonstrate a definite ability to track must be kept proficient. Tracking proficiency can be maintained by

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following a minimum of one advanced track per week. Trainers must set up the tracks so the dog's capabilities can be reinforced.